

Community Climate Change Adaptation

3CA Grants Program 2019 - Part II Feb 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Capital Items: What do we mean by Capital Items/Assets and what are the restrictions?

Non-eligible items

The restriction on capital items or assets is on items such as cars, laptops, machinery, furniture and other high value, long lasting items retained by the organisations after the completion of the project.

These items are not considered eligible expenditure.

If required as part of project implementation then these items can be leased and charged to the project or their use donated to the project as an in-kind contribution.

Eligible items

Items or assets that are solely used for the project and will provide an ongoing benefit beyond the completion of project are, however, eligible for these grants.

For example: a water tank on a community facility that helps drought proof or maintain a recreational facility/green space would be eligible.

2. Does an organisation have to have insurance before submitting the grant application?

Organisations are required to have sufficient insurance to cover the project activities for the duration of the project contract. If organisations do not currently have insurance they can take it out after the grant has been awarded and before the contract commences.

3. Can insurance costs be charged to the project?

Yes – however these costs can only be included as part of the project administration budget, which cannot be more than 5% of the total requested budget.

4. My project will include technical works. Are there any additional requirements that need to be completed?

Projects submitted to the 3CA grants program that include activities or works of a technical nature will require technical assessments and/or design to be completed by a relevant/appropriate and suitably qualified professional. The department may also require the submission of the technical assessments and/or designs for review for quality assurance.

5. Is a recording of the Webinar available?

Yes, you can access a recording of the webinar by logging into the 3CA Grant Program Webinar page here: <https://login.redbackconferencing.com.au/landers/page/aa9f74>.

If you didn't register for the original event you can still register now and access the recording until the 31st of March 2019.

6. I have a particular project; can you tell me if I should apply for a 3CA Grant?

Unfortunately, we cannot provide specific information on whether a project should apply or should not apply. Each project will be assessed against the criteria outlined in Section 7 of the 3CA Grant Guidelines. If you are thinking of submitting a project please review the assessment criteria and if you believe your project meets each of the criteria then we would encourage you to apply.

7. What do you mean by an adaptation outcome?

An adaptation outcome is an outcome that helps people, the environment or the system be able to adjust to climate change, to either minimise harm, act on opportunities or to cope with the consequences.

Example project:

A water tank and solar panels are installed on a community centre to help create a cool place for vulnerable people to stay during heatwaves. The water tank helps to ensure water is always available in the centre and the solar panels help to ensure the centre has secure source power during heatwave events.

The adaptation outcome is the creation of a cool space for vulnerable people to use during heatwaves. The water tanks and solar panels help to achieve this.

8. Can the webinar powerpoint presentation be emailed to participants?

The powerpoint presentation from the webinar is now available on the 3CA Grant Program webpage: www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/3CAgrants

9. Would a project focusing on community education about adaptation solutions for our region via a radio program or podcast be eligible?

Yes – projects that seek to increase knowledge and education to the wider community about climate change adaptation would be seen to contribute to Building Adaptive Capacity and would be considered within this project category.

10. Would a project like a community hub featuring cultural (Traditional Owner) science, indigenous plantings and education surrounding a shire, working parallel with an education program in schools, be appropriate for funding?

Yes, if the project can demonstrate a community climate change adaptation benefit, for example if indigenous planting can reduce local climate change impacts, and meets the evaluation criteria, it will be considered eligible.

11. Would an application for funding for the development of a feasibility study for the restoration of a large significant wetland be eligible?

While a feasibility study is an important part of a project, on its own it may not sufficiently meet the evaluation criteria to be successful in the grant assessment process. Feasibility studies may certainly be included as part of a project proposal which aims to deliver an adaptation outcome and in more technical projects will be often required. Co-funded projects where part of the funding is used to conduct a feasibility study and part to implement the project activities would also be considered.

12. Is revegetation on private land to provide shade and shelter for stock to protect from extreme weather events eligible?

The primary beneficiary would be the private land holder rather than a whole community and therefore is likely not to be eligible. If the project was part of a community project with a community outcome, within a Landcare group, for example, that may be eligible.

13. Can an adaptive action projects incorporate a component of building adaptive capacity?

Yes. Many project will contain elements of both Delivering Adaptation Action and Building Adaptive Capacity. You can only select one of these themes in your project application, so please select the

theme that you think your project will have the greatest impact in but then in your short answer questions provide information on how it will both build adaptive capacity and deliver adaptation action now.

14. Can an organisation apply for more than one project?

Yes, you may submit more than one project for consideration, however, any individual organisation will not be awarded more than one project grant.

15. Can an organisation be a partner on one project and lead on another without affecting the ability to be awarded both?

Yes, this is possible however this will be considered within the assessment process.

16. Can groups employ someone to help with communication/social media etc?

If the employment of a someone to help with communications and social media enabled a clear adaptation outcome to be achieved, then could be considered as part of a proposed project. The cost of employing this person, however, would be weighed against the expected outcome of the project and only be considered if it could demonstrate good value for money. Section 7 of the Grant Guidelines details the project assessment criteria and requires that:

- A reasonable proportion of funding requested through this grants program is allocated to on-ground actions, education or capacity building activities as compared to administration¹ costs; and
- The project is feasible and cost effective.

17. Would retrofitting low income houses to make them more thermally efficient be considered a community benefit?

Yes, this project would be considered to have a community benefit if it focused on a number of houses and there was a clear rationale for why those houses were selected. This benefit could be increased if the retrofitting was documented or carried out in a way that provided information to other individuals or service providers on how they could increase the thermal efficiency in their houses or for community members vulnerable to extreme heat or other expected climate impacts.

18. Would implementation of adaptation measure on multiple private properties of low-income households or rural properties (e.g., back up generators for large dairy farms, solar panels to run air con, etc), be eligible?

The implementation of actions that support a number of different low income households adapt to climate change would be considered as a project option, however, projects will be assessed against the type of intervention and the level of public benefit that it proposes to deliver. Projects will also be assessed and ranked against the benefit and level of public benefit that other projects are proposing to deliver. Therefore, for projects with only a small number of people directly benefitting from the core project activities, it will be important to think about how the actions they propose to take are can have additional impacts, such as sharing information and increasing knowledge about effective adaptation action, beyond the direct beneficiaries.

19. How accurate does a budget need to be as often some of the costs are unknown?

¹ Administration costs refer to the cost associated with running and managing the program internally (e.g. the financial administration of the project or preparation project reports). Administration costs should not exceed 5% of total budget.

The budget should be as accurate as possible at the time of submission. We understand that initially it may only be possible to get estimates for some costs and that some costs may also change across the life of a project. Provided these variations are only small then there will usually be no issue in accommodating these within the budget. Should significant changes in cost occur between budget lines, and in particular if a higher portion of funding is proposed to go to staff costs or project administration as opposed to activity costs, then prior approval must be obtained from the Department.

20. Can groups be across two regions - e.g. Port Phillip and Loddon Mallee? On page 7 of the application are you able to click on two options, rather than one in the pop up menu?

Yes, a project may be implemented across two regions. It is not possible to select two regions as part of the application process. In this case we suggest you select the region in which you expect the highest proportion of the project to be implemented. There is also a text box question on the same page that asks where the project will be implemented. This will provide you an opportunity to explain that it will be implemented across two regions.

21. Will the successful grants be delegated to each region?

All projects will initially be assessed within their nominate region before being reviewed by a state-wide committee. Successful projects will need to engage with their region's Community and Partnership Team across the life of the project.

22. Are pest or weed control projects eligible to receive funding under this grant program?

Pest or weed control activities that involving shooting, trapping, explosive or chemical use, poisoning or fumigation, including undertaken by contractors paid for by the project, are not an eligible to receive funding as part of this grants program.

23. Are increased electricity prices an effect of Climate Change and reducing those costs on local businesses via solar panels an adaptation response?

Increased electricity prices are not considered as a direct climate change impact for this grants program. The installation of solar panels itself or other standalone renewable energy projects are also not eligible for funding as part of this grants program. The installation of renewable energy can be included within a project if it is part of helping achieve an adaptation outcome. Please see the example of a project with an adaptation outcome in question 7 for further clarification.

24. Are there any resources you can recommend to check if a similar adaptation project may exist or already be in the process of being implemented?

We would firstly recommend reviewing the Regional Adaptation Snapshot Reports to see what types of adaptation projects are being implemented in your region as well as the expected climate impacts and identified prioritised adaptation gaps and priorities. We also recommend getting in contact with a DELWP Regional Community and Partnerships team member in your region, with whom you can discuss your project idea in further detail. They may then be able to direct you to other resources or information relating to your project.

Regional Adaptation Snapshot Reports can be found at the below address:

<https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/information-and-resources/climate-change-adaptation-resources>

DELWP Regional Community and Partnership Team Member contact details are provided below

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